# Kingdom of Saudi Arabia (KSA)

# Statements of Commitment to the Global Alliance Against Hunger and Poverty

## General section

1. The Kingdom of Saudi Arabia (KSA) hereby voluntarily *joins the Global Alliance Against Hunger and Poverty* and states its dedication to pursue the Alliance's mission, objectives and principles, as *expressed* in the Global Alliance's Terms of Reference and Governance Framework, and to collaborate with other members to achieve lasting solutions to poverty and hunger worldwide, as expressed below.

   The Kingdom of Saudi Arabia:

2. *Recognizes* that hunger and malnutrition are the manifestations of persistent, structural poverty and inequality, and recognizes the need to end poverty and hunger in all their forms and dimensions and to fully and effectively implement the 2030 Agenda.

3. *Acknowledges* the alarming growth in the number of people facing food insecurity and poverty in recent years, noting that, despite all significant past and current efforts, the world is not on track to meet SDG 1 and 2 targets, inequality is also on the rise (SDG 10), and a significant increase in collective ambition, as well as improvement in collective alignment and coordination for the fight against hunger and poverty, is urgently needed.

4. To that effect, *endorses* the Global Alliance Against Hunger and Poverty and its mission to *support and accelerate efforts to eradicate hunger and poverty (SDGs 1 and 2) while reducing inequalities (SDG 10), contributing to revitalize global partnerships for sustainable development (SDG 17) and to the achievement of other interlinked SDGs, and championing sustainable, inclusive and just transitions*.

5. *Notes* that it is crucial for the world to unite behind large-scale, integrated approaches combining international, regional, national, and local levels, that recognize the interconnected nature of challenges and solutions to hunger and poverty and pair social protection with access to goods and services that can help the poor and vulnerable populations to overcome structural barriers and drive responsible investment in their productive capacity. These complementary services include but are not limited to interventions for poverty reduction, food security and nutrition, early childhood support, education and skills development, employment services, health and care services, as well as family farmers and smallholders' access to finance, extension services, research and/or agricultural inputs, in line with international commitments and obligations.

6. *Particularly recognizes* the high value and positive impact of quality implementation of national and local country-owned, inclusive policy instruments and programmes, fo-

cused on the poorest and most vulnerable, in the fields of poverty reduction, social protection, food security and nutrition, gender equality, decent work in the agri-food sector, skills development, family farming and smallholder agriculture, food systems transformation, health and care services and resilience building.

7. Also *acknowledges* the Global Alliance's reference basket of such policies as a collectively built, ongoing collection of examples with robust evidence to reduce hunger and poverty, and as a useful basis to guide joint action and increase alignment of the international community at country level. This acknowledgement is applicable to the policy basket approach as a general guide to action and does not imply endorsement of any specific policy instrument or programme contained in the basket.

8. Therefore, by joining the Global Alliance Against Hunger and Poverty, *commits* to do its best efforts, in its own field of action, and according to its own mandate, capacities, priorities, preferences, procedures, and legal arrangements and framework, to support the implementation of policy instruments and programmes at country level as appropriate, including by the promotion of shared learning and the mobilization of resources, public and private, at scale.

In particular:

## Domestic policy implementation commitments

The Kingdom of Saudi Arabia acknowledges its role in the national-level implementation of policies and programmes against hunger and poverty, as well as for providing guidance and support to sub-national level policies and programmes.

The Kingdom of Saudi Arabia:

*Commits* to make its best efforts to implement, improve, and/or scale-up the implementation of policy instruments and programmes from among those contained in the Global Alliance's policy basket in our national context. These policy instruments and programme suggestions would be adapted to the specific conditions, realities and opportunities presented in our country.

*In particular, the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia commits to implement, improve, or scale-up the implementation of the following policy instruments or programmes, referenced in the Global Alliance's reference basket:*

1. **Social Protection Program**:

The Kingdom of Saudi Arabia envisions a comprehensive Social assistance system designed to eradicate poverty, improve living standards and foster meaningful employment through:

- *New Social Security Program*: Implemented in November 2021, this needs-based program offers minimum income support to lift individuals out of poverty. It evaluates assets and household income, ensuring better-targeted assistance for those in need, regardless of social status. The previous program's benefits were limited to specific groups (e.g., widows, divorcees, people with disabilities, the elderly, and orphans). In

September 2023, the Council of Ministers approved an update, increasing benefits by 20% to reflect rising cost of basic needs. Additionally, two new subsidy programs were introduced in 2023 for social security beneficiaries: a milk formula subsidy program and financial support for energy-efficient vehicles, alongside existing food and electricity support, exemption from aptitude tests fees and education supports.

- *Hybrid Means Test (HMT) Tool*: An HMT assessment tool has been launched to assess social assistance beneficiaries through a combination of Proxy Means Testing (PMT) and Income Testing. This tool captures household characteristics, income, expenditure, assets, and potential social assistance needs to improve eligibility assessments for subsidy programs. Utilizing prefilled administrative data and verified household visits, HMT creates detailed beneficiary profiles to enhance targeting. Efforts are underway to expand HMT's use across other social support programs, in line with the social benefits strategy.
- *Citizen Account Program Enhancements*: The Program is consistently updating its policies in order to adapt the Kingdom's evolving social protection strategy, improving benefit thresholds and targeting support toward most deserving applicants. An income threshold has been set in 2024 on all applicants to improve directing efficiency of government benefits and support. Since July 2022, The Program has increased monthly subsidy amount by 73% of core value entitlement in order to mitigate economic impacts and inflation and it remains uninterrupted to all entitled applicants and dependents.
- *Beneficiary One-Stop Shops ("Tamkeen Clinics")*: Launched in 2024 across seven regions in the Kingdom, these centers offer comprehensive services in nine areas—legal support, employment and entrepreneurship, training, housing, financial consultations, education, drug rehabilitation, healthcare, and mental and physical health. These community hubs integrate resources from private, government, and nonprofit sectors, offering beneficiaries access to a broad range of support services. To date, over 141,000 interventions have been delivered, significantly improving beneficiaries' lives and lifting them out of poverty.
- *Training and Facilitating Labor Market Inte*gration: Beneficiaries are empowered to achieve financial independence and transition into productive roles through targeted training and skill development programs. These initiatives aim to enhance beneficiaries' capabilities, boost their income, and improve their standard of living. As a result, a total of 549,098 individuals have been empowered, with 300,688 beneficiaries successfully transitioning away from reliance on social security benefits since 2021>

2. **Zakat Program**: Through the **Zakat Program**, funds are Directed toward social assistance program offering assistance to those in need who have lower income than the set threshold of social assistance program.

3. **Waqfy Platform**: As part of Saudi Arabia's commitment to **financial sustainability**, the Waqfy Platform has facilitated community contributions to support sustainable development initiatives. Since 2020, more than **three million people** have benefited from the **National Donations Platform**.

4. **Sustainable Agricultural Rural Development Program (REEF)**: Sustainable Agricultural Rural Development Program (REEF): This program provides small agricultural producers, cooperative societies, and rural establishments with resources, access to markets, and sustainable agricultural practices. By 2023, the program had positively impacted more than 120,000 beneficiaries' including youth and women, and has a goal to reach over 200,000 beneficiaries by 2027. The program is focusing on developing innovative new technologies for small holders and family farmers. Additionally, terracing farming is one of the focus to rehabilitate farm land with advanced rainwater harvesting techniques applied to boost agricultural productivity.

5. **Health and Nutrition Programs**: Saudi Arabia has implemented **dietary guidelines** and public health campaigns aimed at improving nutrition, particularly for **vulnerable groups** like children and pregnant women. Through the **Rashaqa Program**, obesity rates among school-aged children are being targeted, contributing to the broader **Quality of Life Program** under **Vision 2030**.

6. **Agricultural Development Fund and Irrigation Systems**: The Agricultural Development Fund continues to finance modern farming techniques and the development of **new irrigation systems**. The **Saudi Irrigation Organization (SIO)** plays a pivotal role in improving water management, promoting efficient use of water resources, and ensuring sustainable agricultural practices.

7. **Sustainable Agriculture: KSA** continues to develop **sustainable agriculture initiatives**, with a focus on strengthening **food systems**, promoting **rural development**, and facilitating access to **finance** for small producers and cooperatives.

8. **Health and Nutrition Expansion**: The Kingdom of Saudi Arabia plans to expand its **health and nutrition programs**, particularly targeting **vulnerable groups** such as children and pregnant women, to improve overall **food security** and health outcomes.

These initiatives, while representative, demonstrate **KSA's** comprehensive approach to addressing hunger, poverty, and inequality. **KSA** remains committed to implementing best practices in governance, resource mobilization, and stakeholder engagement, ensuring sustainable development and progress. Additionally, **KSA** actively participates in **international cooperation** by sharing its experiences and working with other Global Alliance members to advance collective goals.

*Commits* to observe good practices throughout the implementation of such policy instruments and programmes, including maintaining effective governance, seeking avenues for domestic resource mobilization for funding such programs and providing for appropriate monitoring and evaluation, with adaptation and learning based on social involvement and consultation, local stakeholder engagement, minimizing negative impacts and seeking to adequately manage policy trade-offs.

## General acknowledgments

*Recognizes* the possibility to, including through the mechanisms available to Global Alliance members, coordinate, partner with and/or seek support from the Global Alliance's other members, within their respective capacities, availability, and fields of activity, to carry out the present commitments with greater effectiveness.

While recognizing that the above commitments are voluntary and non-legally binding, being subject to and carried out under its own capacities, regulations, priorities, and modalities, as well as to the availability of appropriate resourcing, *strives* to seriously consider, as appropriate, and according to its own legal frameworks and governance process, to review its procedures and priorities as found necessary to better deliver on the present commitments, enhance synergies and joint efforts with other entities and initiatives, and improve outcomes on the collective fight against hunger and poverty.